

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred on May 12, 2008 has already resulted in the loss of over 51,000 lives. More than 29,000 people remain missing, and nearly 300,000 others have been reported as injured. The earthquake also destroyed 80 percent of the buildings in the area, killing thousands of children who were trapped in collapsing schools. Roughly 5 million of the survivors are now homeless.

When faced with such tragedy, we must never forget the ability of the human spirit to persevere. The inspirational stories of courage and survival that have come out of this disaster remind us to never lose faith, even in the most trying of times. I would like to especially commend all those who have come out in support of the victims. From international relief organizations to local community volunteers, people of all backgrounds have set their differences aside and come together to help those in need. In the past week alone, the regions of China most affected by the earthquake have received over \$2 billion in donations.

While some of this news is encouraging, it is clear that the people of the People's Republic of China have suffered greatly from this catastrophe. I truly wish them my heartfelt prayers as they work to rebuild their communities and move forward with their lives.

VAPTSO DIAGNOSES

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the astonishment and indignation I felt upon learning of the actions of Dr. Norma Perez, staff psychologist at the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center in Temple, TX.

For those who may not know, Dr. Perez sent an email referring to the increase in "compensation seeking veterans" and urged medical professionals to "refrain from giving a diagnosis of PTSD straight out" citing, among other reasons, the fact that veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Temple facility have been appealing their compensation and pension judgments "based on our assessment."

Madam Speaker, I am appalled. I am appalled that a medical professional at the Department of Veterans Affairs would consider the cost of treatment as a factor in making a medical diagnosis. What is the cost of a veteran's well-being? At what point do we determine that certain medical diagnoses would be too expensive to treat? At what point do we determine that a service induced injury is one that a veteran does not deserve to be compensated for?

Madam Speaker, as President Lincoln reminded us in 1865, it is our duty as a nation to ensure that we "care for him who shall have borne the battle". We must accept our responsibility and ensure that our veterans have proper and complete medical care and diagnoses that are free of political considerations and are made in terms of their well-being.

As a proud former member of the United States Army I am incensed that such a decision was ever considered. I applaud Secretary

Peake for his repudiation of this affront to our Nation's veterans and call upon him to ensure that the culture of the Department of Veterans Affairs lives up to its stated goal of "excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction."

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT MARCI HISE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Marci Hise, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. Marci has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Marci is involved in cheerleading, powerlifting, Peer Assistance and Leadership, FCA, and Peer Buddies. She also spends time each week mentoring and encouraging two elementary school students. Marci is on the A-B honor role and puts 100 percent into her academics.

I congratulate Marci Hise for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH RYAN

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Kenneth Ryan, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Kenneth's leadership during the 2007-2008 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club and the community of Carlsbad. During his tenure, the Hi-Noon Rotary Club awarded high school scholarships, and partnered with the Carlsbad evening Rotary clubs to sponsor the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser, a community-wide event which provides financial support to the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad and Community Youth Services. In addition, during Kenneth's presidency, we had the most successful golf tournament in the club's history. The funds were earmarked for high school scholarships and to assist families of wounded marines.

During his presidency, a number of other projects were completed. These projects included providing volunteers to help maintain public and private property, provide food and clothing for the homeless, and assist in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. A Children's Christmas party and dinner for very needy elementary school students were also provided. In an effort to improve literacy, badly needed

bilingual dictionaries were provided and distributed to English- and Spanish-speaking elementary school students. In addition a book a week was contributed to a school library, and mentors were also provided for the "City Stuff" program. This program promoted an understanding of the workings of city government for young Carlsbad school children.

On the international front, Kenneth's leadership and his team of Rotarians joined with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a needy family in Mexico. Through the Paul Harris Fellow Program, contributions were made to the Rotary Foundation, the purpose of which is to support international projects for the benefit of humanity, such as eradication of polio through out the world and to support the Micro-banking Project.

In addition, there were numerous other projects which he led to completion during his tenure, too numerous to mention.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Kenneth Ryan. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Leadership earmark standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosures for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: GWACS Defense, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4500 South 129th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74163.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$8,500,000 for the Ground Warfare Acoustical Combat System of Netted Sensors. The entire project cost to complete is \$19,200,000, with anticipated funding of \$5,000,000 being raised privately by GWACS Defense, Inc. over the next two years. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account. The funding will be used by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab to accelerate completion and purchase of a new small arms fire detection and location technology for force protection in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Westwood Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12402 E. 60th Street, Tulsa, OK 74146.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$1,500,000 for Power Conversion Equipment for High Density Power Generation Packages. The \$1,500,000 project will be funded as follows: Design: \$180,000; Purchased Parts, Fabrication and Assembly: